



DIVISION OF MINES  
BOARD OF COAL MINING EXAMINERS  
CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS  
<http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/dm/default.htm>

***SURFACE FOREMAN – (COAL)***  
***West Virginia Reciprocal Agreement***  
**PHOTO ID REQUIRED**

**PRIOR TO SCHEDULING EXAM MUST PROVIDE LETTER OF GOOD  
STANDING FROM RECIPROCATING STATE**

Article 3 of the Coal Mine Safety Laws of Virginia establishes requirements for certification of coal mine workers. The certification requirements are included in §45.1-161.24 through §45.1-161.41 in which the Board of Coal Mining Examiners is established for the purpose of administering the certification program. The Board has promulgated certification regulations 4 VAC 25-20, which set the minimum standards and procedures required for Virginia coal miner examinations and certifications.

**CERTIFICATION CLASSIFICATION: \* Surface Foreman (Coal) – WEST VIRGINIA  
RECIPROCITY**

*Renewal must be in accordance with the BCME continuing education requirement.*

**THIS CERTIFICATION AUTHORIZES THE SURFACE FOREMAN TO:**

- Perform all duties required by State and Federal laws and codes as certified Surface mine foreman
- Record findings on pre-shift, on-shift examinations

**NOTE:**

- This certification may be used to perform pre/shift – on/shift examinations at preparation plants and dock locations.
- Hold a General Miner Surface Certification and Gas Detection as part of this certification (A card will be issued)

**APPLICATION/EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:**

- Application (BCME-1) and \$40.00 fee 5 working days prior to examination
  - **Note:** Classes are limited to 20 people and tend to fill quickly. Application fees are due no later than 5 working days prior to the examination, but this will not guarantee that an opening will be available.
- Current first aid training (MSHA 5000-23 Annual Retraining or New Miner Inexperienced Training acceptable)
- Copy of current West Virginia foreman card
- Letter of “good standing” from state of West Virginia
- **Reciprocity can only be used one time to achieve certification**
- Hold an Advanced First Aid Certification issued by the Division of Mines or a certification by EMT or First Responder issued by the Virginia Department of Health

**EXAMINATION REQUIREMENTS:** A score of 85% on all elements of the examination. *Applicants must pass all elements of the First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman reciprocity examination in order for Virginia to reciprocity Kentucky foreman certification. If the examination is failed, then the applicant may submit fee for retake of the examination 10 working days after the notification letter has been sent. If the applicant does not pass on the second try, the entire foreman examination (either First Class Mine Foreman or Surface Foreman) must be taken under the regular examination process for foreman certification.*

| <b>ELEMENTS OF EXAM</b>  | <b>NUMBER OF QUESTIONS</b> |
|--|----------------------------|
| <u>Surface Foreman</u>   |                            |
| ▪ Mining Laws (MP) (Surface)                                   | 50                         |
| ▪ Virginia Coal Surface Reclamation Regulations (RL) (Surface) | 20                         |
| ▪ <u>Records</u> (Surface)                                     |                            |
| Pre-shift/On-shift (PO)  |                            |
| Ground Control/Red Zone Practical (GC)                         |                            |
| ▪ Gas Detection (GD)   |                            |

**RECOMMENDED REFERENCE/STUDY MATERIALS:**

- Surface Foreman
- Mining Laws of Virginia (\$5.50)
  - Surface Foreman Study Guide (\$12.00)

The above mentioned study materials are available at the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy’s Big Stone Gap Office, Customer Assistance Center (276) 523-8233 and Lebanon Field Office (276) 415-9650.

**\*4 hours of biannual continuing education required to update this certification.**